Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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P 202335Z JAN 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, YO

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: JAT SCHEDULED SERVICE TO US

REF: A) BELGRADE 084; B) STATE 963

1. FYI: DEPTOFF MET WITH CAB STAFF TO DISCUSS JAT APPLICATION (SEE REFTEL B). DEPT FLOATED IDEA OF AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT FOR 1 YEAR PENDING A NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WHEREBY THE US WOULD ALLOW JAT TO OPERATE ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF FLIGHTS DURING THE YEAR AS IT OPERATED CHARTER FLIGHTS IN 1975. UNDER THIS FORMULA, AT A MINIMUM JAT WOULD BE ALLOWED ONE SCHEDULED FLIGHT PER WEEK AND A TOTAL OF 50 ROUNDTRIP OR 100 ONE-WAY CHARTER FLIGHTS. JAT WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO NARROW-BODIED EQUIPMENT DURING THIS PERIOD. INTERIM ARRANGEMENT ADVOCATED BY DEPT WOULD NOT DEAL WITH COMPLEX BUSINESS CONDITIONS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN YUGOSLAV EXCHANGE AND BANKING

REGULATIONS AND WOULD LEAVE THESE PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED IN A FORMAL NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT. IF SUCH ARRANGEMENT IS APPROVED WE MUST CONSIDER ITS EFFECT ON LEGAL STATUS OF CHARTER AGREEMENT. CAB IS CONTACTING INTERESTED PARTIES IN US INDUSTRY TO SOLICIT THEIR VIEWS ON THIS ARRANGEMENT. END FYI.

- 2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CAB STAFF WORK AND FINAL BOARD DECISION CAN BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS. HOWEVER, THIS WOULD NOT GIVE GOVERNMENTS ENOUGH TIME TO WORK OUT FINAL DETAILS BEFORE APRIL 1, HENCE WE BELIEVE IT WOULD NOT BE REALISTIC FOR JAT TO CONTINUE TO EXPECT TO BEGIN SERVICE ON THAT DATE.
- 3. DEPT IS INFORMING YUGOSLAV EMBASSY OF TIME-FACTOR AND FORESEEABLE ADMINISTRATIVE DELAYS. EMBASSY SHOULD ADVISE GOY AND JAT OFFICIALS THAT A NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT IS NOT FEASIBLE IN TIME TO PERMIT SERVICE THIS YEAR BUT WE ARE CONSIDERING OTHER POSSIBILITIES INCLUDING AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT. HOWEVER, DEPT BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE MORE REALISTIC FOR JAT TO HOLD OFF MAKING DEFINITE PLANS FOR SCHEDULED SERVICE TO US UNTIL US AGENCIES HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE WORK ON JAT APPLICATION AND THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE WORKED OUT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE INTERIM ARRANGEMENT. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOY AND JAT OFFICIALS EMBASSY SHOULD MENTION PROBLEMS US HAS IN MEETING APRIL 1 DEADLINE BUT STRESS USG DESIRE TO EXPEDITE GOY-JAT REQUEST WITH MINIMAL INCONVENIENCE TO CARRIER AND ITS MANAGEMENT IN PLANNING SERVICE TO US. SISCO

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